★★★★★

PREP PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Plus the offense/defense first-teamers
SPORTS

HOLIDAY FILM REVIEWS
McDormand's got bite in 'Billboards'
VARIETY

WEDNESDAY
November 22, 2017

StarTribune

33° 26°
Shades of October into next week. **B8**

150 YEARS 1867-2017

SCHOEN, CORNISH WILL RESIGN

Minnesota lawmakers were accused of sex harassment.

By J. PATRICK COOLICAN and JENNIFER BJORHUS
Star Tribune staff writers

A pair of Minnesota state lawmakers — one a DFL senator, the other a Republican representative — announced Tuesday that they will resign from office in the wake of sexual harassment allegations.

Word of the resignations of Sen. Dan Schoen and Rep. Tony Cornish came within two hours of each other, capping a stunning sequence of events that vividly demonstrated a new awareness of what many insiders say has been a long-standing tolerance of mistreatment of women working at Minnesota's Capitol. Both men had been under pressure from leaders of their parties to resign.

But in leaving, the two legislators, both with law enforcement backgrounds, struck sharply different tones. Cornish, an eight-term representative from southern Minnesota's Vernon Center, issued an apologetic statement and agreed to pay the legal bills of Sarah Walker, a lobbyist he had repeatedly propositioned for sex.

"As a proud former peace officer and longtime champion for public safety, I am forced to face the reality that I have made some at the Capitol feel uncomfortable, and disrespected," Cornish said in the statement. "To those individuals and specifically [Walker], I sincerely apologize for my

See **RESIGNATIONS** on A8 ►

Sen. Schoen

Rep. Cornish

OTHER CASES

Trump backs Roy Moore
Encourages voters to support him in Ala. Senate race. **A3**

Conyers denies allegations
But the longtime Mich. Democrat acknowledges payout. **A2**

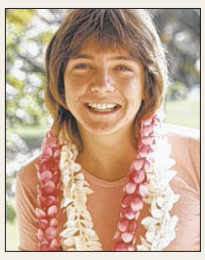
Sports M.D. faces 25 years
Accused of molesting girls in USA Gymnastics program. **A2**

Pixar founder takes leave
John Lasseter said he made disrespectful "missteps." **A2**

TOP NEWS

TAX PLAN WOULD HIKE DEBT
Nonpartisan review of GOP's tax plan estimates deficit will rise $1.3 trillion. **A3**

Assad: Putin saved Syria
The Syrian president thanks Russian leader for military help. **A5**



Heartthrob Cassidy dies
Star of "Partridge Family" TV show was 67. **A2**

Uber admits hack attack
Ride-sharing firm says it covered up computer breach for a year. **D3**

Oooh, oooh, that smell
Foul odor wafting through Twin Cities Monday was, well, poop. **B3**

LOCAL NEWS

Feds order SWLRT study
Wall along one section needs further review; may delay project. **B1**

School lunch debt at issue
Lawmaker says students shouldn't be bullied for lack of payment. **B1**

SPORTS

Gophers roll to easy win
No. 14 Minnesota wins by 43, but big games await. **C3**

Vikings have momentum
There are plenty of obstacles ahead, starting with the game at Detroit. **C3**

BUSINESS

Mayo reveals $300,000 theft
Rochester clinic reported employee's heist to the FBI last year. **D1**

Ikea doubles down on recall
Death of an eighth child leads to more urgent recall of dressers, chests. **D1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?
Wisconsin kindergartner bags a six-point buck; she's among the first to hunt under new state gun law. **A2**

Switching into holiday hyperdrive

Rob Bass, Best Buy's chief supply chain officer, talked Monday with a driver at the firm's Bloomington distribution center.

Best Buy's logistics will soon be tested by a crush of shoppers

Story by KAVITA KUMAR • Photo by JEFF WHEELER • Star Tribune staff

Best Buy has sent out special delivery trucks of nothing but TVs — hundreds of thousands of TVs — to its stores in recent days to be ready for Black Friday crowds.

At the same time, its distribution centers are packed full of thousands more TVs stacked high, ready for the crush of online orders expected to come flying in Thanksgiving morning. Employees are getting a head start by double-boxing the TVs in Best Buy's Black Friday ad, an extra step the company put in place last year to reduce cracked screens.

"We get such under siege come Thanksgiving that we have to get out in front and start overboxing them so our customers don't have to wait," said Rob Bass, Best Buy's head of supply chain, during a rare glimpse inside Best Buy's distribution center in Bloomington earlier this week.

It's show time for U.S. retailers. And after months — well, years — of preparation and investments, this holiday season will once again test whether their supply chains are ready to handle the increasing demands of online shopping to more quickly and efficiently move products to customers' doorsteps.

Online sales have been growing much faster than in-store sales, and retailers whose online operations

See **BLACK FRIDAY** on A8 ►

Table for 50K: Union Gospel Mission will be feeding thousands. **B1**

Road trip: About 50 million traveling this holiday. **B3**

FCC plans an end to the open internet

It wants to repeal rules that prohibit providers from blocking, slowing service.

By CECILIA KANG
New York Times

WASHINGTON – The Federal Communications Commission announced Tuesday that it planned to dismantle landmark regulations that ensure equal access to the internet, clearing the way for companies to charge more and block access to some websites.

The proposal, put forward by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, is a sweeping repeal of rules put in place by the Obama administration. The rules prohibited high-speed internet service providers from blocking or slowing down the delivery of websites, or charging extra fees for the best quality of streaming and other internet services for their subscribers. Those limits are central to the concept called net neutrality.

The action immediately reignited a loud and furious fight over free speech and the control of the internet, pitting telecom giants like AT&T against internet giants like Google and Amazon, who warn against powerful telecom gatekeepers. Both sides are

See **INTERNET** on A5 ►

Next: Agency is expected to pass plan at Dec. 14 meeting.

Inside: How the regulation repeal could affect you. **A5**

Partiers, police gearing up for 'Drinksgiving'

By AMELIA RAYNO • arayno@startribune.com

The Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving always begins the same way at Cowboy Jack's. The staff stocks special beer tubs, then moves most of the tables out to allow for a standing-room-only crowd in the Plymouth bar. They're getting ready for what will be the largest party of the year: Drinksgiving.

Spurred by a rush of college students and young adults returning home, Thanksgiving eve has prompted some bars and restaurants — as well as police departments — to boost staffing levels for the onslaught of preholiday drinkers. "It's our biggest drinking day of the year by far," said Angela Waaraniemi, a manager at Cowboy Jack's, far surpassing New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day.

"Everyone is at home with their families and no one has to work the next day, so they all come out and fill their bellies with as much alcohol as possible," she said.

"The night before is kind of a second Thanksgiving for the family you've chosen."

Joseph Rollwagen, 27, of Eden Prairie

Also referred to as Blackout Wednesday or Black Wednesday, Drinksgiving has likely been around for decades, but it didn't get much recognition until around 2007, when the catchy term was coined. Now it's a national phenomenon — with its own movie, 2016's "Drinksgiving." According to Womply, a small

See **DRINKSGIVING** on A8 ►

Duluth's Essentia fires 50 who refuse flu shots

By JEREMY OLSON • jolson@startribune.com

Essentia Health has fired roughly 50 employees who refused to get flu vaccinations under a new policy that pits personal choice against public health interests.

Hundreds of workers got their shots last week after being warned that they would otherwise lose their jobs, the Duluth-based health system said Tuesday.

But a fraction of workers still refused and did not meet Essentia's medical or religious criteria for exemptions, according to Dr. Rajesh Prabhu, an infectious disease specialist and Essentia's chief patient safety officer.

Severely ill patients are at greater risk of complications and death if they catch the flu, Prabhu said, so there is a greater need to vaccinate hospital workers who interact with them. And even though flu vaccines are not 100 percent effective, federal health officials say they greatly reduce the likelihood of infection. "We are working in a different

See **VACCINE** on A8 ►

40-60 percent: Effectiveness of vaccine in a typical year.

73-77 percent: U.S. health care workers who got flu shots, 2014-15 season.

90-94 percent: U.S. nurses, doctors who got flu shots, 2014-15.

6: States that require health care workers to be vaccinated.

11: States that require hospitals to offer employees flu shots for free.

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